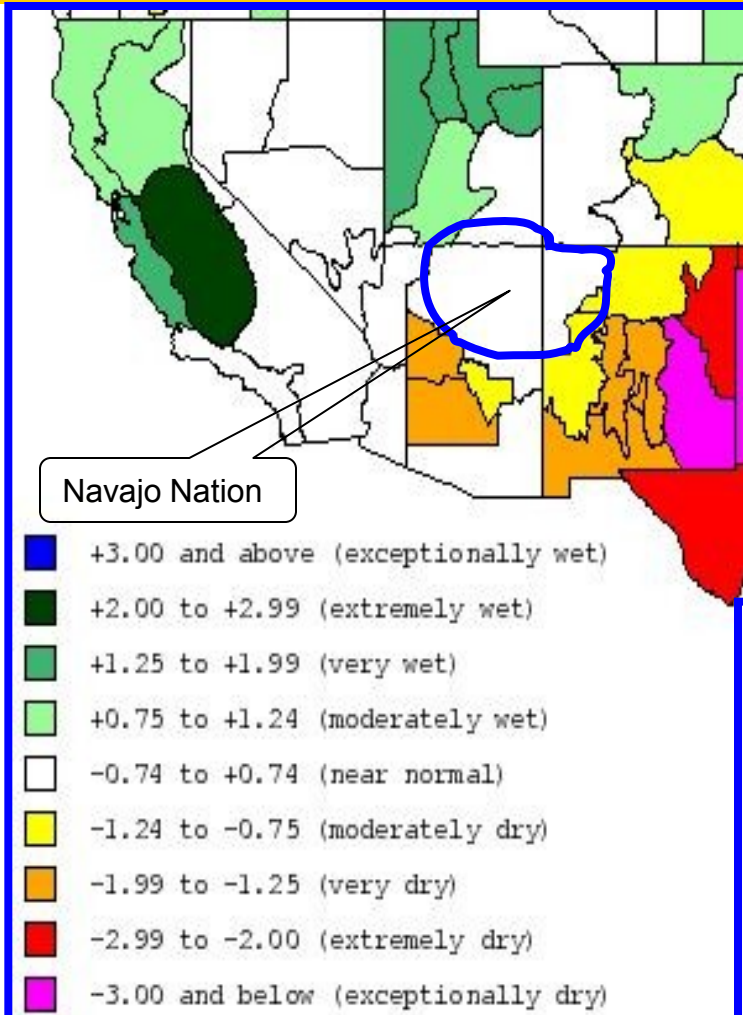




NAVAJO NATION DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

NN Dept. of Water Resources, Water Management Branch

P.O. Drawer 678 Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504 Ph.(928) 729-4004, Fax.(928) 729-4126



Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of Oct.
	Sept.	Oct.	
NE AZ	-0.27	0.01	Normal
NW NM	0.66	0.56	Normal
SE UT	0.67	0.36	Normal

Drought Intensity Category

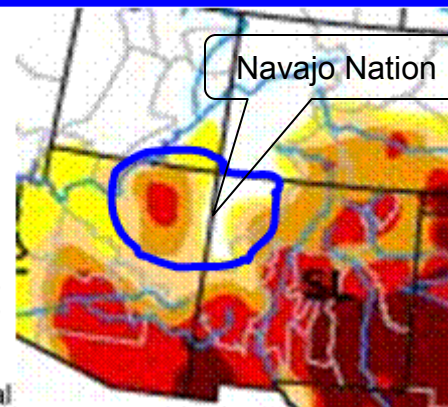
<i>NNDrought</i>	<i>US Drought</i>	
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme-Exceptional	D3 & D4

Drought Impact Types:

~ Delineates dominant impacts
 S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
 L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

Intensity:

D0 Abnormally Dry
 D1 Drought - Moderate
 D2 Drought - Severe
 D3 Drought - Extreme
 D4 Drought - Exceptional



6-Month SPI for October 2011 www.wrcc.dri.edu

November 8, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC November 8, 2011

The West: Precipitation along the coastal regions of the west as well as some significant rains in the central portion of Arizona and Colorado allowed for improvements this week in the region. In Nevada, D0 was eliminated from the western portions of the state, and in Colorado, a categorical improvement was made in the southern portions of the state. As with other areas this week, the rains in Arizona were the first significant precipitation event in quite some time, so improvements were held off this week, waiting to see the full response to this event. Dryness in portions of Oregon and Washington allowed for expansion of D0 conditions. In central Oregon, D0 was expanded into more of the Klamath Valley and crossing the borders into both California and Nevada. In eastern Washington, D0 was introduced along the Canadian border and into the panhandle of Idaho.

October 2011

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by CLIMAS October 27, 2011

Drought- The drought situation has changed very little across the Southwest over the past 30 days, with all of Arizona and almost all of New Mexico still experiencing some level of drought. More than 40 percent of Arizona and 85 percent of New Mexico are experiencing severe or more intense drought.

Temperature- It has been a cooler-than-average start to the water year in northern Arizona and New Mexico. Southeastern New Mexico continues to be hot.

Precipitation- The past 30 days have been wetter than average in parts of the northern tier of Arizona and New Mexico, but dry conditions continue in the southern part of both states.

ENSO- Confidence has increased that the La Niña event will stick around this winter and likely deliver below-average precipitation to most of Arizona and New Mexico for the second consecutive year.

Climate Forecasts- Seasonal forecasts call for increased chances for above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation through the winter.

The Bottom Line- Drought conditions currently grip most of the Southwest and there is little indication this will change in the coming months. A pool of cold water beneath the sea surface in the tropical Pacific Ocean likely will maintain at least a weak La Niña event through the winter. Because La Niña conditions often cause winter storms to track north of the Southwest, precipitation forecasts call for below-average rain and snow and drought is expected to expand and intensify across the region. La Niña events often enable the jet stream to meander more in a north-south direction, which can cause Arctic air to flow into the Southwest. This occurred in February 2011 when record-cold weather froze plants and pipes throughout the region.

Useful Drought Related**Sites:**

NWS-Climate Prediction
Center

Seasonal Outlook

www.drought.unl.edu

USGS Daily Stream Flow

www.usgs.gov/water/

NDMC Drought Impact
Database Webpage

<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>

[u](#)

Western Regional Climate
Center

www.wrcc.dri.edu

CLIMAS Southwest

Climate Outlook

www.climas.arizona.edu

Navajo Nation Water Management Branch has a network of 126 precipitation stations across the Navajo Nation. On a monthly basis, these stations are checked manually for precipitation data. The 6-month SPI is calculated on the basis of 18 years of precipitation data. The SPI value for a particular agency is the average of SPI values of all precipitation collection sites located within the agency boundary.

6 month SPI

Agency	September	October	Stage as of October
Chinle	0.30	0.47	Normal
Eastern	0.12	0.08	Normal
Fort Defiance	0.61	0.73	Normal
Shiprock	0.31	0.29	Normal
Western	-0.07	-0.26	Alert

